

Student Name:

Date:

Book Group Books on Social Justice

For the next unit on SOCIAL JUSTICE you will read in book groups with your peers. Look over this list of curated books and read over the book “blurbs” provided by Amazon and others. Then select the book that you NEED to read! Consider your interests, the page lengths of the books as well as the complexity of the texts. You may look up reviews of the books and explore them on internet websites.

1. *The Crucible: A Play in Four Acts* by Arthur Miller

Paperback: 143 pages--Very Challenging

The play tells the story of the Salem witch hunts which took place in Massachusetts, 1692. In a small community, religious fervor and social jealousies pushes young girls to accuse their neighbors of witchcraft.

2. *The Boy Who Dared* by Susan Campbell Bartoletti

Hardcover: 192 pages--Challenging

When 16-year-old Helmut Hubner listens to the BBC news on an illegal short-wave radio in Germany in the 1930s,, he quickly discovers his country is lying to the people. But when he tries to expose the truth with leaflets, he's tried for treason. Sentenced to death and waiting in a jail cell, Helmut's story emerges in a series of flashbacks that show his growth from a naive child caught up in the patriotism of the times , to a sensitive and mature young man who thinks for himself.

3. *All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely

Hardcover: 320 pages--Challenging

Sixteen-year-old Rashad is at the corner bodega but a fist-happy cop, Paul Galluzzo, mistakes him for a shoplifter, and says he is resisting arrest. There were witnesses: Quinn Collins—a varsity basketball player and Rashad’s classmate who has been raised by Paul since his own father died in Afghanistan—and a video camera. Soon the beating is all over the news and Paul is getting threatened with accusations of prejudice and racial brutality. Quinn refuses to believe that the man who has basically been his savior could possibly be guilty. But then Rashad is absent. And absent again. And again. And the basketball team—half of whom are Rashad’s best friends—start to take sides. As does the school. And the town.

4. *Elijah of Buxton* by Christopher Paul Curtis

Paperback 368 pages --Medium to High

Eleven-year-old Elijah lives in Buxton, Canada, a settlement of runaway slaves near the American border. He's the first child in town to be born free, and he ought to be famous just for that. Unfortunately, all that most people see is a "fra-gile" boy who's scared of snakes and talks too much. But everything changes when a former slave steals money from Elijah's friend, who has been saving to buy his family out of captivity in the South. Now it's up to Elijah to track down the thief--and his dangerous journey just might make a hero out of him, if only he can find the courage to get back home.

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5. *Real Justice: A Police Mr. Big Sting Goes Wrong* by Richard Brignall

Paperback 136 pages--Medium

On the night of June 23, 1990, teenage friends Kyle Unger and John Beckett made a last-minute decision to attend a music festival near Roseisle, Manitoba. They had fun, played games, drank, and hung around bonfires with other people. The next morning, a sixteen-year-old girl was dead. By the next week, Kyle was charged with her murder. Due to insufficient evidence he was let go, but the Mounties were convinced he was the killer. They laid a trap, called the Mr. Big operation, for Kyle. With offers of money, friends, and a new criminal lifestyle, the RCMP got Kyle to confess to the murder. But the confession was false -- he had not been the killer. He was convicted and sent to prison.

Which number book interests you the most? _____

Which number book is your second choice? _____

Write 5-7 sentences about why you are interested in reading those books:
